Development funding for backward districts

3898. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to increase development funding for the backward districts across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter alia* indicating the proposed increase in the development funding for the backward districts of Orissa State especially the KBK region of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) was approved in 2006-07 to bring about focused development of identified backward districts by implementation of programmes selected through people's participation. The BRGF has two components, namely, Districts Component covering 250 districts including 147 districts covered by the erstwhile Rasthriya Sam Vikash Yojana (RSVY); and the Special Plans for Bihar and the KBK districts of Orissa. An allocation of Rs. 5000 crore was made for BRGF for 2006-07. This allocation has been enhanced to Rs. 5800 crore during 2007-08. The Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) of the erstwhile RSVY covered only five districts of Orissa as against 19 districts of Orissa, including eight districts of KBK region, covered under the Districts Component of BRGF. The allocation for Orissa under RSVY/ BRGF was Rs. 325 crore in 2006-07. In 2007-08, the allocation is Rs. 454.26 crore including Rs. 250 crore for the KBK districts.

Effective utilization of resources

3899. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making any efforts to manage the population to achieve good growth rate by utilizing the resources effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and